Cancer research

568. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that research on cancer is still in a primitive stage in the country because of huge resource crunch with Government;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to augment the financial resources in order to have more research facilities on cancer with latest state of the art technologies; and

(c) whether the National Cancer Congress was held in September, 2003 in Delhi and if so, the decisions taken at the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which is the nodal apex agency in Medical Research, high priority is given to cancer research in the country. About 70 research projects are being currently supported by them. In addition under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/ UTs which are also involved in carrying out research activities in the field of Cancer. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI), Kolkata which is one of the recognized RCCs, is at present handling about 38 research projects. As such it may not be correct to say that research on cancer in the country is in primitive stage.

(c) This Ministry has neither organized nor funded the National Cancer Congress held in September, 2003 in Delhi.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose all India Medical Institute

569. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any budget provision for construction of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose All India Medical Institute in Orissa and by when the construction would be completed; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to start the outdoor treatment in selective departments in rented house till construction of the medical building is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Budget provision for setting up Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar and other proposed AIIMS under the Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana will be made after completion of requisite formalities. The project is likely to be completed during the next three years.

(b) There is no such proposal.

UNFPA report on HIV/AIDS

570. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) entitled 'The State of the World Population 2003' has highlighted alarming trend of increasing spread of HIV/AIDS among the young people, particularly, young girls;

(b) whether Indian data is in line with the global trends; and

(c) if so, the special programme Government propose to reverse the trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per the reports received from States on reported AIDS cases in the country, females count for 26.3% of total reported AIDS cases till October, 2003. The age distribution of these cases is 5.5% among 1-14 years age group and 46.1% among 15 - 29 years age group.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with equal emphasis on female population under following components :—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling, treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections and behaviour change communication.